



*Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission*

# NWIFC News

Summer 2014

[nwifc.org](http://nwifc.org)



**Billy Frank Jr.**  
**March 9, 1931 – May 5, 2014**

# Honoring the Legacy of Billy Frank Jr.



By Lorraine Loomis  
NWIFC Vice-Chair

*Editor's Note: Being Frank is the monthly opinion column that was written for many years by the late Billy Frank Jr., NWIFC chairman. To honor him, we will continue to share treaty tribal perspectives on natural resources management. This month's writer is Lorraine Loomis, NWIFC vice-chair and fisheries manager for the Swinomish Tribe.*

So much has been written and said about the passing of Billy Frank Jr., our great leader and good friend. Many people are asking how to honor Billy's memory. Who will take his place?

One way we can honor Billy's legacy is to carry on his work:

**We must recover wild salmon** to levels that can once again support harvest. That is the only true measure of salmon recovery. Right now we are losing habitat faster than it can be fixed. That must change or we will continue to lose the battle for salmon recovery.

**We must maintain strong salmon hatchery programs.** Most hatcheries were built to mitigate for lost natural wild salmon production caused by damaged and destroyed habitat. Tribal, state and federal hatcheries are operated safely, responsibly and using the best science to minimize impacts on wild salmon. Some hatcheries produce salmon for harvest. Others aid recovery of weak wild stocks. Every hatchery is essential to meeting the tribal treaty right by contributing salmon that are available for harvest. Without hatcheries there would be no fishing at all in most areas of western Washington.

**We must achieve a more protective fish consumption rate and maintain the current cancer risk rate** to improve water quality and protect the health of everyone who lives in Washington. The two rates are key factors that state government uses to determine how much pollution can be dumped in our waters. The state admits that the current fish consumption rate of 6.5 grams per day (an amount that would fit on a soda cracker) does not protect most of us who live here. It is among the lowest rates in the country. Currently the cancer risk rate from toxins in seafood that the state uses to set water quality standards is one in a million, but Gov. Jay Inslee is considering a move to reduce that rate to one in 100,000, a tenfold decrease in protection. We believe Washington's fish consumption rate should be 175 grams per day – the same as Oregon – and that the cancer risk rate should remain at one in a million.

**We must really, truly clean up Puget**

**Sound.** Every few years state government creates a new agency or cooperative effort to make that cleanup a reality. Year after year, decade after decade, we work toward that goal, but we are not making sufficient progress. The main reason is lack of political will to develop and enforce cleanup regulations.

**We must stop plans to expand the transport and export of coal and oil through our state's land and waters.** Increased oil train and tanker ship traffic and more export terminals offer nothing but problems. The likelihood of oil train explosions and derailments, along with the potential for devastating spills from tanker ships, threaten tribal treaty rights, the environment, our natural resources, our health and even our very lives. The few, mostly short-term jobs that they might provide are just not worth the cost.

**We must continue to work together on the problems we all share.** We have shown that great things can be accomplished through cooperation, such as the Timber/Fish/Wildlife Agreement and the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty. If we work together we can achieve both a healthy environment and a healthy economy. A healthy environment is necessary to support a healthy economy in this region and the people who live here demand it.

Billy worked his entire life to make western Washington a better place for all of us to live. Tribal treaty rights that protect natural resources help make that possible, and benefit everyone who lives here, not just Indian tribes.

As for the question of who will pick up where Billy left off, the answer is all of us. No single person will ever be able to replace him. That's a job for everyone. There is only one direction we can go: Forward – together – on the path Billy showed us with the teachings he shared.

## NWIFC News

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## BILLY FRANK JR. 1931 – 2014

**B**illy Frank Jr., 83, tribal treaty rights activist and longtime chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, passed away May 5 at his home in Olympia. He was born March 9, 1931 to Angeline and Willie Frank. He is survived by sons James, Tanu and Willie, and many nieces and nephews. Billy's life and times are captured in the books *Messages from Frank's Landing* by Charles Wilkinson and *Where the Salmon Run* by Trova Heffernan. Following is a portion of his biography from *historylink.org*.

Beginning with his first arrest as a teenager in 1945 for "illegal" fishing on his beloved Nisqually River, he became a leader of a civil disobedience movement that insisted on the treaty rights (the right to fish in "usual and accustomed places") guaranteed to Washington tribes more than a century before. The "fish-ins" and demonstrations Frank helped organize in the 1960s and 1970s, along with accompanying lawsuits, led to the Boldt decision of 1974, which restored to the federally recognized tribes the legal right to fish as they always had.

For years, the state of Washington regarded the 1854 Treaty of Medicine Creek as an irrelevant nuisance. The state insisted that it could impose its fishing regulations on the tribes, notwithstanding the treaty. It tried to do so forcefully, destroying property and making hundreds of arrests. But the traditions and training passed on to Billy Frank Jr. by his father – which in turn were taught to him by Billy's grandfather, and on into the past – were ingrained. The tribes had given ground and shed blood over the years, but they were determined to fight for what was rightfully theirs.

Billy Frank was first arrested in December 1945, when he was just 14. More than 50 arrests would follow over the years, as they would for many other tribe members.

Billy's formal education ended when he finished 9th grade at a junior high in near-by Olympia, but continued in the company of his fellow fishermen. He worked con-

struction by day – mostly highways and sewers – and fished by night, suffering occasional rough treatment, arrest, and confiscation of his precious gear.

In 1952, at age 21, Frank fulfilled a dream and joined the Marines. He was proud of his two years in the corps, but in 1954 he returned to his roots – fishing and the six acres of trust property along the river that his father had acquired in 1919.

...

With arrests and strife between tribal fishermen and state fish and game officials continuing in Washington, on September 18, 1970, the Justice Department filed suit in *United States v. Washington*. The suit asked for declaratory relief for treaties covering areas west of the Cascade Mountains and north of the Columbia River drainage area, including the Puget Sound and Olympic Peninsula watersheds.

The case was assigned to Judge George Hugo Boldt (1903-1984), a tough law-and-order jurist. The trial began on August 27, 1973. Judge Boldt held court six days a week including on the Labor Day holiday. Forty-nine experts and tribal members testified, among them Billy Frank Jr. and his then-95-year-old father.

The decision in *United States v. Washington*, 384 F.Supp. 312 (1974), issued by Judge Boldt on February 12, 1974, was a thunderous victory for the tribes. The treaties were declared the supreme law of the land and trumped state law. Judge Boldt held that the government's promise to secure the fisheries for the tribes was central to the treaty-making process and that the tribes had an original right to the fish, which the treaty extended to white settlers. It was not for the state to tell the tribes how to manage something that had always belonged to them. The tribes' right to fish at "all usual and accustomed grounds and stations" included off-reservations sites, as well as their diminished lands. The right to fish extended not just to the tribes but to each tribal member.

Following the Supreme Court's upholding of the Boldt decision in 1979, the NWIFC and the state had to determine how they were going to co-manage the



Above, Billy fishes the Nisqually River using a canoe. Below, Billy with Don McCloud.



Billy Frank Jr. and Judge George H. Boldt

fisheries they shared jurisdiction over. A long process of creating co-management guidelines and establishing trust between the tribes and state officials began with the development (of the) Puget Sound Salmon Management Plan in the early 1980s. With Frank at the helm, the NWIFC established working relationships with state agencies and other non-Indian groups to manage fisheries, restore and protect habitat, and protect Indian treaty rights.

Billy Frank was honored with countless awards for his decades-long fight for justice and environmental preservation. They include the Common Cause Award for Human Rights Efforts, the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, the American Indian Distinguished Service Award, the 2006 Wallace Stegner Award, and the Washington State Environmental Excellence Award.

– Robert Marritz, *historylink.org*



Left, Billy with his parents, Angeline and Willie Frank. Below, Nisqually's "renegade" tribal fishermen were arrested for exercising their treaty-reserved fishing rights. From left, Jack McCloud, Don McCloud, Billy Frank Jr., Neugen Kautz, Herman John Jr. and Al Bridges.



## NANCY SHIPPENTOWER-GAMES

### PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS

I want to share my thoughts about Uncle Billy from when I was growing up. He was probably the favorite uncle all of us had; always laughing, joking, hugging and loving all of us.

He grew up on Frank's Landing, with his parents, Willie and Angeline Frank, three brothers and two sisters. He married Norma McCloud and they had three children: Maureen, Tobin (Sugar) and Tanu. He then married Sue Crystal and they had Willie. They were his life.

Uncle fought the game agents to put food on the table, provide for his family and pay his bills. When he went to jail for exercising his treaty rights, his wife Norma, sister Maiselle, sister-in-law Janet McCloud and others fished for the families. Like Billy, they were threatened with jail. But the women kept going.

When his daughter, Maureen, and granddaughter, *Ca-ba-qhud*, were killed in a collision with a drunk driver, Uncle Billy was comforting everyone.

He became very involved in the Indian movement that was growing across the nation, starting here first at Frank's Landing. He marched to Washington, D.C., and to other tribes, fighting for treaty

rights and equal justice. He traveled to Wounded Knee to take in food and supplies when the place was occupied by the American Indian Movement.

Yes, our uncle was a loving man. He was also a great leader with many challenges, but he persevered and kept going for the people.

When my dad, Don McCloud, had a heart attack in Pendleton, Oregon, it was Uncle Billy and Aunt Maiselle who took us to see him. They sent for a medicine man, made certain we had a place to stay and food to eat. When my dad came home, Uncle Billy was always there to visit and help him. When my dad passed at 58, Uncle Billy became our mentor.



We must remember how he taught us to be strong and never budge. We must also remember his strength and endurance, as well as the love and the hugs he shared with all of us.

Someone asked me who will take Billy's place, and I said no one. There will be another leader, but no one will ever take his place in my heart. So to all of you I send my love and prayers for the great leader who has traveled to the Spirit World.

In the words attributed to Chief Seattle: "Dead did I say? There is no death, only a change of worlds."



*We're the advocates for the salmon, the animals, the birds, the water. We're the advocates for the food chain. We're an advocate for all of society. So what you do is, you do what you can in your lifetime. Then that'll go on to another lifetime. Then another lifetime. Then another. — Billy Frank Jr.*

**MIKE GRAYUM**  
**NWIFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

I will never forget the first time I met Billy Frank Jr.

It was 1973, shortly before Judge George Boldt's ruling in *U.S. v. Washington*. I hadn't been out of graduate school for very long and was working as a biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Olympia. A few days before Christmas, my boss told me to go down to the Nisqually River to try and find out how many fish the Nisqually Tribe was catching.

I saw Billy standing on a gravel bar in the river and waded out to introduce myself. That day he gave me my first real world lesson in fisheries management. I didn't know it then, but meeting Billy would change my life forever.

It wasn't long after that when I left the Fish and Wildlife Service and went to work with Billy at what was then the brand-new Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. That was nearly 40 years ago, nearly all of my professional life.

A professional lifetime is what Billy asked from all of us who worked with him over the years. He told us that it takes a lifetime, then another and another to create the change needed to protect tribal treaty rights, recover salmon and safeguard our environment.

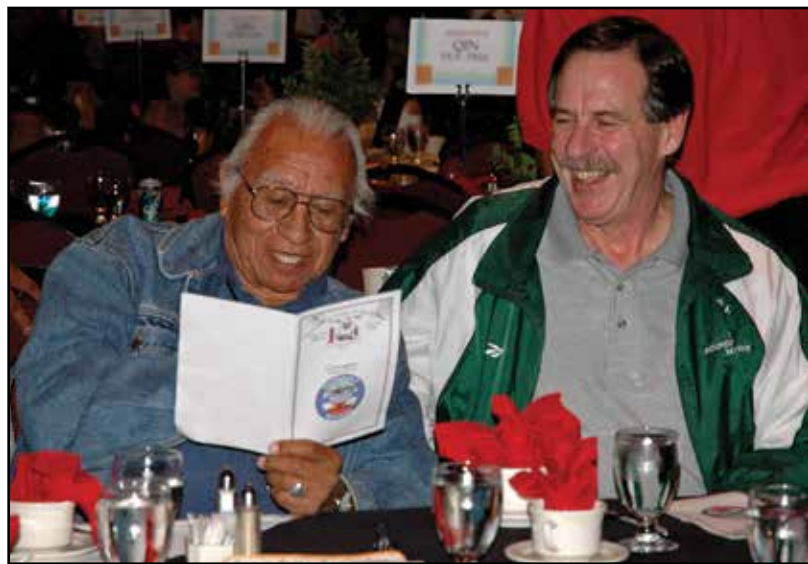
But Billy didn't dedicate only his professional life to the cause. He dedicated his whole life, body and soul. Up until the day he died he kept a schedule of travel, meetings and speeches that would be difficult for most men half his age.

Presidents, other elected officials and agency directors come and go all the time. No sooner do they leave than the process must begin again to educate their replacements about the tribes, treaty rights and natural resources co-management here in Washington.

That is why the continuity that tribes and tribal programs provide is so important. As Billy often pointed out, the tribes will always be here. They will stay right where they are, day in and day out, working to restore the salmon and protect the environment in the places they call home.

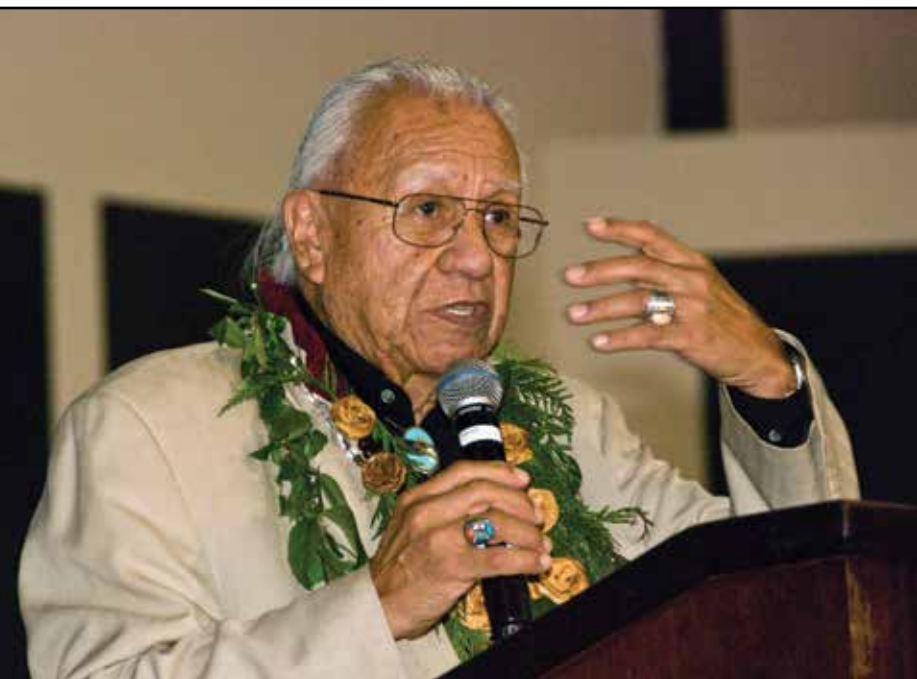
Billy laid out a clear path for us to follow. His message was always the same: "Stay the course," no matter how much adversity we face.

While we miss Billy terribly, the treaty tribes and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission will continue to do just that. He may not be with us physically, but Billy will always be in our hearts and will guide us in spirit.



Top, Billy speaks at an event at the Nisqually Tribe in 2010. Above, Billy and Mike Grayum share a laugh in 2005 at the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Quinault Indian Nation signing the Treaty of Olympia. Below, Billy meets with tribal leaders in the Great Lakes region with Jim Anderson, right, then NWIFC executive director.





*I don't believe in magic. I believe in the sun and the stars, the water, the tides, the floods, the owls, the hawks flying, the river running, the wind talking. They're measurements. They tell us how healthy things are. How healthy we are. Because we and they are the same.*  
 — Billy Frank Jr., Where the Salmon Run

## **CECILIA GOBIN, TULALIP TRIBES NWIFC POLICY ANALYST**



I know the gathering on this side will be great in number. From his beloved family and fellow Nisqually people to the leaders that fought beside him over the decades, and to the new, younger generation that he helped bring up through the ranks. We all knew Billy in our own unique way. His heart and his presence had a way of attracting people young and old, from all walks of life. His passion inspired us, his love encouraged us, and his words push us on: “Stay the Course.”

With such news it is hard

not to be caught frozen in our tracks; to have our “everyday” abruptly halted in the way that only death can command.

Words are spoken a little softer and shared with much thought and prayer. Tears flow when and where our own words escape us. Yet my mind still races. Caught up in pain and grief, my thoughts still wander to tomorrow...and to the tomorrows that are still to come. Who will stay the course? Who will carry on this work? As I look into the hallways, I can hear the mix of tears and quiet whispers among the toils of work that somehow manage to catch moments of our attention in the midst of our initial shock and mourning. And it is here that I find my answer.

The work remains; and those of us here today remain with it. Perhaps it's a result of

the leadership and the example that Billy gave to us all, day in and day out, but I find comfort in the tinges of work that try to muster on this morning. It is a show of the teachings and dedication that we have picked up along our lives' way. And it is a sign that for the time being we will do what we know, the best way we know how; WE will stay the course.

For this next generation, there is no option. A lifetime, memorialized by a single man – Billy Frank – has shown us that the question before us is not whether we continue the fight. Rather the question is who; who will continue this fight? The experience of our ancestors and relations that have walked this road before us demonstrates that if we as Indian people want our way of life to continue we have to pick up the responsibilities

that have now been left before us.

It is rare to find a person among my generation that truly knows the history of the struggle and the sacrifice; let alone took precious time to come to understand it. It's easy to espouse the “glamour” aspect of this fight; to play defense. But how many of us are ready and willing to dig a little deeper? How many of us are willing to make self-sacrifices that are truly for our people? To set aside personal agendas and devote a lifetime to work that is for all the people?

As with all change, there is much to think about. For now, I am signing off with the words that he often left me with: The journey is long, travel safe. I love you.

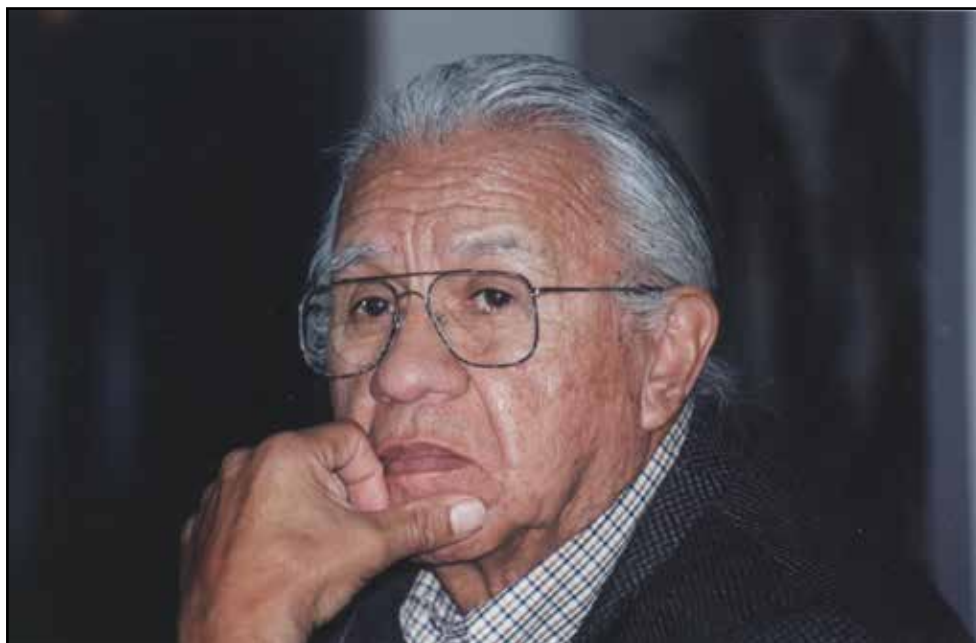




Courtesy of Laura Mott



Clockwise from upper left: Billy thanks celebrants attending his 80th birthday party at the Little Creek Resort in 2011. Billy smiles beside the Nisqually River during a photo shoot for the book, *Where the Salmon Run: The Life and Legacy of Billy Frank Jr.* Billy fishes the Nisqually River with his sons Willie, left, and Sugar in 2010. Billy and Russ Hepfer, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, commemorate the Elwha Dam removal in 2011. Billy attends an event at The Evergreen State College in 2001. Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) shakes Billy's hand.



Read remembrances, share  
your memories at  
[BillyFrankJr.org](http://BillyFrankJr.org)  
Watch video of the  
memorial service at  
[go.nwifc.org/billyservices](http://go.nwifc.org/billyservices)



# America Has Lost a Giant

By **JEFF SHAW**

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, NC JUSTICE CENTER**

**FORMER NWIFC NORTH SOUND INFORMATION OFFICER**

**A**n American hero has died. Billy Frank Jr. was a titan of a man whose life deserves wide celebration and remembrance. If you knew Billy, then you know why. If you weren't aware of his life and work, I'd like to take a few minutes to explain.

Where I come from out West, the treaties Indian tribes signed with the United States government were largely made in peace. In exchange for all of the land that now makes up western Washington, 2.2 million acres, tribes like Billy's Nisqually Tribe signed agreements with Gov. Isaac Stevens to preserve their way of life.

It was a pretty sweet deal for the settlers: they got rich, fertile land upon which they could prosper. All the tribes really wanted: to keep fishing and hunting, feeding their families and preserving a culture that had been around since time immemorial. By signing these treaties, the tribes were codifying those rights into law: Article 6, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution says that treaties are the "supreme law of the land," on a par with the constitution itself.

But soon, those rights were violated by settlers who wanted to take all the fish and game for themselves, and by state governments who were less than interested in honoring treaty commitments.

What the Pacific Northwest needed was a leader with the passion, charisma and guts to stand up for what was right. Luckily, it had Billy.

The Martin Luther King of Northwest coast native rights was arrested more than 50 times during the so-called "fish wars" of the '60s and '70s for acts of civil disobedience. He was beaten, shot at, slandered and spit on, but he never let it embitter him.

Billy was larger than life, too. A gregarious, friendly man with the firm handshake of a lifelong fisherman, you always knew he was in the room and were always glad of it. It says something that, though he was in his 80s, his passing has stunned many of us. Billy Frank Sr. lived to be 104. I assumed we'd have Billy around for another decade or two, at least. Even his political opponents largely loved Billy, and those that didn't had to respect him.

Billy was one of the reasons I went to work for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, an organization he chaired for more than 30 years. Besides his passion

for treaty rights, Billy understood as few do that healthy fish runs require paying close attention to ecological preservation.

Without habitat, fish and elk have no way to sustain themselves — and neither do we. Billy was a leader with vision who always saw the big picture. He saw the connections between social justice for communities of color and environmental protection. He was passionate about building a better future for native youth — and for everyone.

Up until his last days, Billy was working to make sure that his kids, and yours, and theirs, and theirs — and however many "theirs" you want to attach on the end — would have a healthy planet that would support wild salmon. He was working to protect the sacred commitments that in turn protect the communities he loved.



## Angler Tributes

*Sport fishermen on the online forum PiscatorialPursuits.com shared their thoughts of Billy's passing. Read the full thread at [go.nwifc.org/tributes](http://go.nwifc.org/tributes).*

*Pijon:* One less voice of reason, just at a time when we need people like him the most. R.I.P. Billy Frank Jr.

*SalmoG:* Folks like Billy understood clearly that salmon are the currency you can eat. Try to digest a dollar bill.

*CedarR:* His voice will be missed in future fishing discussions.

*DrifterWA:* Back in the 70s, he fought the good fight for salmon, steelhead and for the native people. RIP Billy Frank Jr. The Pacific Northwest is a better place because you walked among us.

*Hardware:* Gonna miss his strong voice for putting more Steelhead and Salmon in our rivers — not fewer.

*A gregarious, friendly man with the firm handshake of a lifelong fisherman, you always knew he was in the room and were always glad of it.*

If you care about the U.S. Constitution, you should care about Billy Frank. If you're concerned with honoring oaths and the dignity of keeping your word, you should be glad he lived. If you fight for social justice in any capacity, you had a fellow traveler. If you're concerned about the fate of the planet we're leaving to our children, you owe him a debt.

And if you have a beating heart in your chest, as God is my witness, you would have loved him.



# Remembrances



Billy and tribal activist Hank Adams share a laugh at the Boldt 40 celebration.

*The great Indian men who followed from that time immemorial – through treaty times and beyond – gave voice to the voice of Billy Frank Jr. – and he to theirs for a lifetime.*

**HANK ADAMS**  
**ASSINIBOINE-SIOUX**  
**TRIBAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, FAMILY FRIEND**

## THOMAS P. KEEFE JR., ATTORNEY, FAMILY FRIEND

I remember shortly after Willie (Billy's youngest son) was born on, I think it was Easter Sunday back in 1982, when Grandpa Frank gave Willie his Indian name, *Qu-lash-qud*.

Billy said that the name is a Nisqually word for that instant between night and the coming of day when it's neither night nor day. It's a time of calm and peace where the two halves of a circle meet.

Although Billy has traveled on, I'm sure that those of us who have gathered here today to say farewell can for the rest of our lives arise before the first light and catch a glimpse of Billy at that fleeting moment of time each day the Nisqually Indians call *Qu-lash-qud*.

Billy speaks during the opening of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission's Tribal Fish Health Center in 1988.



## PATRICIA ZELL, ATTORNEY, FAMILY FRIEND

The first thing we learned from Billy and felt all the time was his love. Billy is the personification of the embodiment of love. And I'm sure that everyone that is hearing these words today has been touched by Billy's love, has been touched by Billy's hugs, the wonderful Billy hugs. And all the ways that he expressed love in every single day of his life in so many ways to so many people.

## JOHN MCCOY, TULALIP TRIBES, WA STATE SENATOR

He taught us to listen. He taught us not only to read the treaties but to listen to the treaties because when we listen, our ancestors, our elders are telling us something.

## FAWN SHARP, PRESIDENT, QUINAULT INDIAN NATION

I saw Billy as a historic visionary – he had this ability to go back to treaty time and had an incredible understanding of what those words meant, so much to that point so that I wondered if he was there 150 years ago. But at the same time this one individual could see seven generations into the future. As a visionary, he understood the many challenges facing humanity, facing our generation. It was his understanding of how all things are connected.

## NORM DICKS, FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

I have often said no one cared more for planet earth and the salmon here more than Billy Frank. Now what can we do? We can honor Billy by finishing his work – protecting wild salmon. What would Billy want us to do? He would want us to respect the science, he'd want us to uphold the Boldt decision and the treaty rights, support the NWIFC and he would want us to tackle the problem of our time: climate change and ocean acidification.

## JEROMY SULLIVAN, CHAIRMAN, PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE

Without his dedication to tribal rights and the environment, it is very likely that we would not enjoy the treaty protections we do today.

Debbie Preston



Left, Billy and his sons Sugar and Willie celebrate a birdie at the Salmon Defense Golf Tournament. Above, Joe DeLaCruz, Quinault Indian Nation, and Billy.

## CHARLES WILKINSON, LAW PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

Billy had a rich, complex and powerful vision of culture, sovereignty, the natural world, treaties and other laws. That vision is revered by the Salish people, many other tribes and many in the majority society. Like the visions of Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, there is every reason to believe that Billy's vision will be passed down and live on for as long a time as we can conceive.

## DAVID LOPEMAN, CHAIRMAN, SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

We're all going to miss this great man. I always considered him Chief, Chief of all of us. Because that is what he had done through a lifetime he had been there. And I know he's up there now with some great chiefs looking down and smiling and saying, "Did I make that many friends?"



# Remembrances

**JIM ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NWIFC, 1985-2005**

Traveling with Billy was like being with a rock star. Everyone knew him and you would never know who you might be talking to next. It could be senators or representatives, cabinet secretaries or governors, tribal leaders or fisheries folks from across the country. But he was more than a rock star, he was the rock that anchored all of us that were a part of implementing the U.S. v. Washington court case.

**ED JOHNSTONE, POLICY SPOKESPERSON  
QUINAUTL INDIAN NATION**

Billy my friend, Billy my leader, Billy my mentor, Billy my brother, you inspired us, you influenced us. You molded us, you showed the way, the good way. You cared for us. You provided us the words of wisdom for the continuation of the good fight.

**SHAWN YANITY, CHAIRMAN,  
STILLAGUAMISH TRIBE**

When he sat down with my children, he talked about the treaty. He talked about the leaders. He talked about why it's important to know where we came from, know the struggles that our ancestors and our past leaders had to go through. To fight. Hang on to who we are and what we are: fishers and hunters and gatherers.

**LEONARD FORSMAN, CHAIRMAN,  
SUQUAMISH TRIBE**

His commitment to protecting Mother Earth and the rights of Indian people will be remembered and treasured forever.

**RUSSELL SVEC, DIRECTOR,  
MAKAH FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

He was our greatest commander (Chief). He influenced so many young Native Americans to become strong leaders in the protection of treaty fishing rights. His spirit will continue to live in all of us.

Below, Billy receives a hug from Lummi Nation Hereditary Chief Bill James. Right, Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, and Billy take in the newly restored Elwha River.



Billy and Skokomish natural resources director Joseph Pavel tour the newly restored Skokomish Tidelands.

**ELDEN HILLAIRE, CHAIRMAN,  
LUMMI NATION FISHERIES COMMISSION**

So hard to put to words what Billy is to all of us: a warrior, a leader and a soldier, for all Native people throughout our great lands. Billy taught us so much that all of us can carry on his work. His words. His heartfelt passion for the resources.

**CYNTHIA IYALL, CHAIRPERSON,  
NISQUALLY TRIBE**

Billy understood that when salmon and shellfish are plentiful, everyone benefits. Clean water, air and earth are vital for everyone. We all depend on the planet. This was his life lesson.

**SALLY JEWELL, U.S. INTERIOR SECRETARY**

Indian Country and the nation lost a true giant as Chairman Billy Frank has walked on. His lasting legacy will be felt for generations in the hearts and minds of those he touched over an entire life dedicated to serving others.

**DENNY HECK, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE**

Billy Frank Jr. truly was a great man. He was our clear and unwavering and eloquent voice of moral authority on behalf of civil rights, treaty rights, clear, cool water and our sacred salmon.

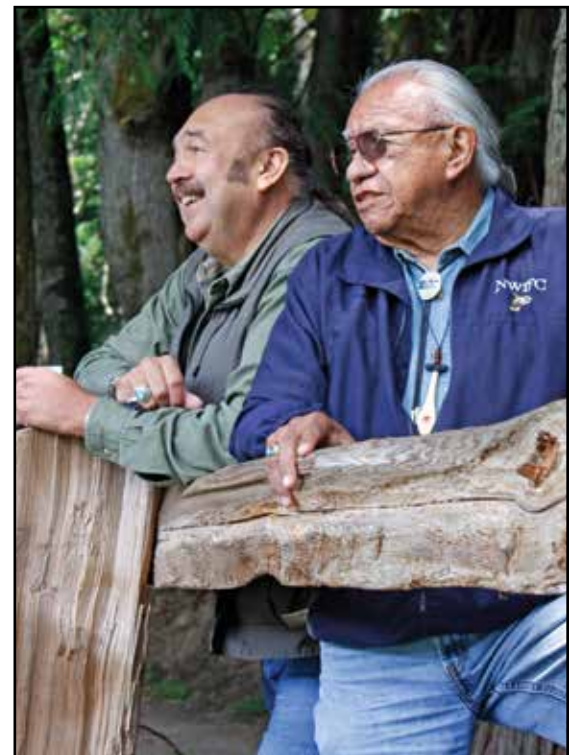
They say you die twice. The first time physically and the second time when people stop telling stories about you. That's why I believe Billy Frank will live forever.

*Our water is cleaner  
today because of Billy.  
Our treaties are more  
respected because of Billy.  
Our sovereignty is stronger  
because of Billy.*

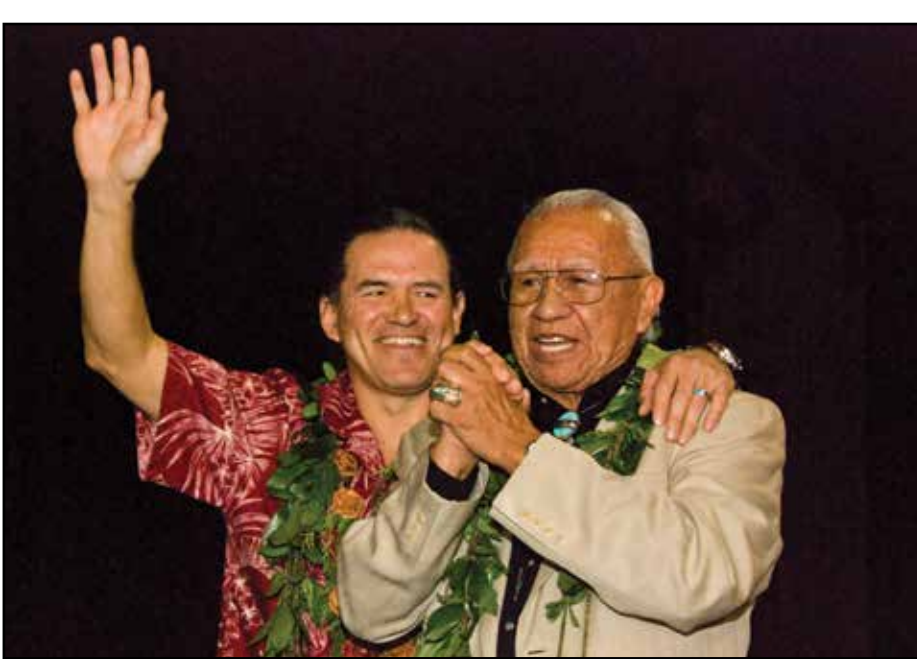
**KEITH HARPER  
CHEROKEE NATION  
U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS  
AMBASSADOR**



Billy and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Chair Frances Charles.







**SENATOR PATTY MURRAY,  
D-WASHINGTON**

From the members of Washington state's tribes to all of us who cherish our natural treasures and salmon-fishing heritage, Billy Frank's remarkable life touched everyone who calls Washington state home.

When it came to representing his community and fighting to make a difference, no one worked harder than Billy. No one could ever replace his incredible joy for life and his unyielding belief in simply doing the right thing.

**SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL,  
D-WASHINGTON**

Billy Frank was a legend among men. Today, America lost a civil rights leader whose impact will be felt for generations to come.



**U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA**

Billy fought for treaty rights to fish the waters of the Pacific Northwest, a battle he finally won in 1974 after being arrested many times during tribal "fish-ins." Today, thanks to his courage and determined effort, our resources are better protected, and more tribes are able to enjoy the rights preserved for them more than a century ago. Billy never stopped fighting to make sure future generations would be able to enjoy the outdoors as he did, and his passion on the issue of climate change should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Left, Billy drives his boat. Top left, Swinomish Tribe Chairman Brian Cladoosby honors Billy at his 80th birthday party. Above, President Barack Obama and Billy meet.



## The Billy Frank Jr. Salmon Forever Fund

If you would like to support the work and vision of Billy Frank Jr., please consider donating to the Billy Frank Jr. Salmon Forever Fund.

The fund will be used to:

- Provide scholarships for native people.
- Support projects that improve salmon habitat.
- Support legal challenges on behalf of the salmon.
- Fund projects, productions and facilities that engage the public's understanding of salmon and native cultures.
- Provide awards to individuals or organizations that demonstrate leadership and commitment to the environment.

The Billy Frank Jr. Salmon Forever Fund is held in trust by Salmon Defense, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Donations can be mailed to The Billy Frank Jr. Salmon Forever Fund, Salmon Defense, P.O. Box 7431, Olympia, WA 98507 or made online at [salmondefense.org](http://salmondefense.org).

## Walking On

### Carol Burns



Carol M. Burns was born in Olympia on Feb. 19, 1939, and passed away April 22, 2014.

Burns was well known in the Olympia area for her many contributions to causes close to her heart.

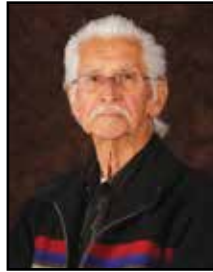
A filmmaker, she was one of the founders of Capital Area Community Television Association, now in its 32nd year and known as TCTV. Her best-known work is the 1970 film *As Long As the Rivers Run*, about one Indian family's struggle to hold on to their treaty rights and traditional way of life.

Burns' other passions included the Russian language and its people, her flower garden, Green Cove Creek, and reading.

She attended Reed College and Stanford University.

Burns is survived by her daughter, Lucia Burns (David Bouffard) of Brooklyn, N.Y.; her two grandsons, Cole and Adrian; and her brother, Roger Burns of Fairbanks, Alaska. – *The Olympian*

### Hermon Dillon Sr.



Herman Dillon Sr., chairman of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians' tribal council and a member of the tribe's governing body for 30 years, died May 23 of congestive heart failure. He was 82.

Dillon, first elected to the council in 1971, often served as its chairman. He helped negotiate compacts with Washington state on gambling, cigarette and gas taxes and the 1990 land claims settlement. During his time in office, membership in the tribe more than tripled to about 4,500.

He spent four years in the Navy Reserve, and two years in South Korea with the U.S. Army, guarding prisoner-of-war camps and the port in Pusan.

Dillon was known for his commitment to helping tribal youth, and as foster parents, he and his wife, Darlene, took several children into their home. – *Adapted from the Tacoma News Tribune*

### Ben Johnson



Ben Johnson, who as Makah chairman championed the tribe's first whale hunt in 70 years in 1999, walked on March 31 at Olympic Medical Center in Port Angeles following a heart attack.

He was born in Neah Bay on March 22, 1939 to Bender Johnson Sr. and Harriet Eliot Stewart. He was a lifelong fisherman, learning from his father and grandfather, and ultimately fishing on his own at the age of 14 to pay for school clothes, supplies and other necessities. He fished throughout his life.

He received his associate's degree in fisheries from Peninsula College in Port Angeles and worked as a biologist assistant for the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries on the research vessel *George B. Kelez* in the Bering Sea.

Johnson served his tribe for decades, including as fisheries director, executive director of the Makah Tribe Youth Program and Bureau of Indian Affairs policeman. He served on tribal council for nine years, and was tribal chair for seven of those years.

He is survived by wife Jeanne Johnson; children Lawanda (Dave) of Neah Bay, Lois (Hal) of Canon City, Colorado, Brenda (Steve) of Port Angeles, Jon (Lorna) of Neah Bay and Cory (Hazel) of Neah Bay. Also surviving are brothers Donald (Mary), Mark and Paul; sister Mary (Cotton); 30 grandchildren; and 51 great-grandchildren.